SUPPLEMENT TO THE
BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL

LONDON SATURDAY AUGUST 31 1940

WAR NOTICES

Steel Helmets and Civilian Duty Respirators

Following representations by the British Medical Association the Government has now agreed to make steel helmets (Grade 2) and civilian duty respirators available to all medical practitioners on application. Some practitioners are now in possession of steel helmets or civilian duty respirators, or both. This provision applies only to practitioners who are *not* already provided with helmets or respirators.

The procedure is for each practitioner not already provided with a helmet or respirator to apply in writing before Saturday, September 14, to the secretary of the Local Medical War Committee for his area giving the following particulars: (1) Name in full. (2) Address. (3) What is wanted—helmet, respirator, or both. (4) Size in hats, if helmet is wanted. (5) Size of civilian duty respirator, if this is required. (The respirator is made in two sizes, normal and small. Most men, and some women, require the normal size, but wherever there is doubt the local A.R.P. headquarters may be asked to advise. It is essential that each applicant should state whether the normal or the small size of respirator is required.) (6) Each applicant for a steel helmet should state that he does not already possess a helmet. Each applicant for a civilian duty respirator should state that he does not already possess such a respirator. The helmets and respirators are intended for the doctor's own use only.

Payment.—Each application should be accompanied by a remittance, 7s. for a helmet and 7s. 6d. for a respirator. Cheques should be made payable to the Secretary of the Local Medical War Committee. Please write to him and do not ring him up.

These arrangements apply to all practitioners in England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland.

The Minister of Health has under consideration the question of a further issue of steel helmets and civilian duty respirators to: (1) hospital staffs whose needs have not yet been fully met, including stretcher-bearers; (2) midwives and district nurses; and (3) relieving officers who are required to open the special relief stations.

Delays

There has been considerable delay in dealing with two important matters, and in neither case is the Central Medical War Committee or the British Medical Association responsible. The first is in connexion with the revised terms and conditions of service for practitioners enrolled in the E.M.S. or treating E.M.S. patients under the occupied-bed arrangements. When the occupied-bed arrangements were introduced in November last the Ministry of Health agreed that the terms and conditions of service should be reviewed by the end of June, 1940. On June 8 the Advisory E.M.S. Committee put forward to the Ministry new proposals under this heading. The Ministry received representatives of the committee to discuss these on July 11, but owing to protracted discussions it was not until August 9 that the Ministry's counterproposals were received. These were considered at a special meeting of the Advisory Committee on August 13, the committee's comments being conveyed to the Ministry on August 14. No further indication of the Ministry's attitude has yet been received, although the committee has been informed that the Ministry propose to obtain some statistical evidence so as to do justice to one or two of the proposals which have been advanced by the committee. The Advisory E.M.S. Committee is aware of the dissatisfaction which exists on this subject, and it is only fair to state that its proposals for dealing with the situation as from July 1 were put forward as early as June 8. The revised terms of service will be retrospective from July 1.

The Central Medical War Committee is still awaiting the Ministry's estimate of children covered by the unaccompanied children arrangement for the quarter ending June 30 and for the cheque in payment for medical services rendered. Payment will be made to Local Medical War Committees within forty-eight hours of receiving the cheque. The Ministry has been asked on a number of occasions to expedite the calculation and the payment of the money now considerably overdue.

Medical Care of Home Guard

The following letter has been sent by the Central Medical War Committee to Local Medical War Committees in England and Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland:

"A number of inquiries have been received from Local Medical War Committees and individual practitioners as to the part the medical profession can play in association with the Home Guard. Realizing the widespread desire that exists among our profession to help in the work of this great voluntary movement, the Central Medical War Committee and the Council of the British Medical Association decided to offer to the War Office, on behalf of the medical profession, to provide through volunteers the essential first-aid treatment of battle casualties and injuries sustained by members of the Home Guard while on duty, no charge being made for this medical work. It is believed that the offer of service in these terms will meet with the general approval of the profession. The War Office gratefully accepted the offer.

The machinery suggested is as follows. There is given below the name and address of the Territorial Association covering your area. It is suggested that your Local Medical War Committee, through its honorary secretary, should establish contact with the Territorial Association at this address and in consultation with them decide the number and location of the medical practitioners desired for the purpose of providing this medical attention.

It is suggested that the territory under the aegis of the Territorial Association should be divided into areas in accordance with the Home Guard organization, there being obtained by the Local Medical War Committee for each area a volunteer medical practitioner who agrees to be on call for the purpose of providing initial first-aid treatment for members of the Home Guard injured by enemy action or otherwise whilst on duty. The War Office has already communicated with Territorial Associations, who are now ready to enter into the necessary discussions.

It will be noted that the offer is clearly defined and limited to the treatment of the Home Guard *whilst on duty*."

Certificates for War Service Injuries

It has been asked whether the books of certificates issued to the profession at the outbreak of war for use in war injury cases should be used for war service injuries—for example, injuries sustained by whole-time air raid personnel while on duty. The answer is in the affirmative, despite the statement on the cover of the book of certificates limiting their use to war injury cases only.

CENTRAL MEDICAL WAR COMMITTEE,
B.M.A. House, Tavistock Square, W.C.1.

CERTIFICATES FOR THE SUPPLY OF MILK UNDER THE NATIONAL MILK SCHEME

The Ministry of Food has drawn the attention of the British Medical Association to the fact that in some instances practitioners are charging a fee for the completion of the certificates referred to in paragraphs 6 and 7 of the form of application for the supply of milk at twopence a pint or free of cost. This question has been considered by the Executive Committee of the Association, and practitioners are recommended not to charge a fee for the completion of these certificates.

Correspondence

The Paddington Resolution

SIR,—The resolution of the Paddington Medical Society with the discussions which preceded it (*Supplement*, July 27, p. 8) merits some note if only for the fact that one of its supporters was Sir Ernest Graham-Little. One would have expected him, if not to know, at least to guess, that the financial straits of the majority of those among us who have been adversely affected by the war could not be solved by still further increasing the numbers on medical boards or by multiplying the number of boards.

1. The boards must, in the course of a very short time, die a natural death, as the manhood of Britain is not inexhaustible so far as recruiting for the Forces is concerned. A further dilution of the medical boards will only increase the number of poverty-stricken practitioners without increasing the prosperity of any. As an "appeal to the gallery"—that is, those outside the boards—the resolution may be effective but cannot, in the nature of things, solve the problem of those who require immediate help.

2. Sir Ernest's argument that this is not the time to demand an increase in the capitation fee could be justified only if the principle of equal sacrifice were adopted by all sections of the community. But while my 22-year-old patient, a general non-skilled labourer, who earned less than £3 a week before the war, is now exempt from military service and is earning £7 a week while on day work and £9 a week on night work; while aviation companies and others are paying 45% dividends; while the cost of living is up appreciably, it is unfair to preach to the medical profession on their civic duties (which Sir Ernest's remarks imply). The future organization and remuneration of the profession can be left temporarily to debaters, while a war bonus on the same principle as for factory workers would at least temporarily and effectively alleviate distress.—I am, etc.,

London, E.16, Aug. 16. D. G. DE BOUK.

Supply of Practitioners in Australia

SIR,—Your reference to Sir James Barrett's article (*Supplement*, July 20, p. 5) may mislead some unfortunate to take up a position at £500 a year. A single man might just cover his living expenses, but a married man would not save anything under an income of £1,000 a year. The deficiency lies not in the supply but in the reward. An up-country practice may conjure up visions of beautiful surroundings, congenial companionship, etc. Hot, sandy, and treeless, the Australian township, so called, is often only a store, a public house, and a bank, with three or more shanties in a main street. The district to be covered is sparsely populated by selectors here and there, often on the "bread-line." Sir James Barrett wants medical officers for Bush hospitals—no doubt a worthy object—but why ask medical men to act as missionaries on a starvation wage and in most uncongenial surroundings?—I am, etc.,

Aug. 14. W. KENT HUGHES.

Naval, Military, and Air Force Appointments

ROYAL NAVAL MEDICAL SERVICE

ROYAL NAVAL VOLUNTEER RESERVE

Probationary Temporary Surgeon Lieut. J. Gray to be Temporary Surgeon Lieutenant.

ARMY MEDICAL SERVICES

Colonel J. J. D. Roche, late R.A.M.C., has retired and remained employed.

ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

Lieut.-Colonels A. J. Williamson, retired pay, and G. D. Jameson, retired pay, have reverted to the rank of Major whilst employed during the present emergency.

Captain H. N. Walker has retired, receiving a gratuity.

Lieut. S. P. Bellmaine to be Captain.

ROYAL AIR FORCE MEDICAL SERVICE

Flying Officers J. D. Jones, I. H. Barclay, and F. Summers to be Flight Lieutenants.

Edna V. Butler Jones, Kathleen Byrt, and Agnes C. Gillan to be Medical Officers with the relative rank of Flying Officer.

AUXILIARY AIR FORCE: MEDICAL BRANCH

Flight Lieut. J. E. Howell to be Squadron Leader.

Flying Officers L. Stone, B. P. Robinson, E. O. Walker, and E. Llewellyn to be Flight Lieutenants.

ROYAL AIR FORCE VOLUNTEER RESERVE: MEDICAL BRANCH

To be Flight Lieutenants: G. T. James, H. A. Thomas, H. W. Toms, A. S. Simpson, G. K. Burr, R. W. B. Ellis, J. Hughes, and W. G. Hutton.

Flying Officers G. R. Gunn, P. S. Clouston, and J. V. Macgregor to be Flight Lieutenants.

Flying Officer R. Macpherson has ceased to be seconded to St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

To be Flying Officers: R. Crawford, R. Cunningham-Jones, T. R. Davison, G. G. Hartill, I. W. Hockley, J. E. Horrocks, R. N. Houlding, L. J. Jacobs, H. J. Lillie, W. W. McGrath, V. E. A. Marwood, D. S. Napier, E. P. S. Snell, C. A. Dowding, T. Akroyd, G. B. Barbour, R. F. T. Finn, B. Flacks, G. R. Green, R. D. Kennedy, R. O'Meara, J. V. O'Sullivan, J. N. Pattinson, C. W. R. Rayne-Davis, H. W. Smithies, I. Taylor, N. J. W. Thompson, and A. W. Woodruff.

TERRITORIAL ARMY

ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

Lieut.-Colonel A. T. Ashcroft has relinquished his commission on account of ill-health and has retained his rank, with permission to wear the prescribed uniform.

Captain G. M. Warrack, Royal Scots, to be Captain.

Captain R. A. Quinn has relinquished his commission on account of ill-health and has been granted the rank of Captain.

Captain J. R. Tibbles and J. C. Heal have relinquished their commissions on account of ill-health

Lieuts. (War Substantive Captains) H. Freeman and K. MacColl have relinquished their commissions on account of ill-health.

Postgraduate News

The Fellowship of Medicine announces the following postgraduate courses: (1) F.R.C.S. comprehensive course at Royal Cancer Hospital, mornings, Monday to Friday, continuing until October 11; (2) Final F.R.C.S. clinical course in general surgery, Wednesdays at 5.30 p.m., September 4 to 25; (3) M.R.C.P. course in neurology at West End Hospital for Nervous Diseases, afternoons, September 9 to 20; (4) anaesthetic course for D.A. candidates (and others interested), consisting of lectures and clinical demonstrations and covering a period of from two to three weeks, starting at the end of September. Further particulars will be issued at a later date, and will be sent on application to 1, Wimpole Street, W.1.

WEEKLY POSTGRADUATE DIARY

BRITISH POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL, Ducane Road, W.—*Daily*, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Medical Clinics, Surgical Clinics and Operations, Obstetrical and Gynaecological Clinics and Operations. *Daily*, 1.30 to 2 p.m., Post-mortem Demonstration. *Tues.*, 2.30 p.m., Ward Clinic, Sir Walter Langdon-Brown. *Thurs.*, 2 p.m., Radiological Conference, Dr. Duncan White. *Fri.*, 2.30 p.m., Sterility Clinic, Mr. V. B. Green-Armytage.

FELLOWSHIP OF MEDICINE AND POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, 1, Wimpole Street, W.—*Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital*, Stanmore: Sat., 2 p.m., F.R.C.S. Clinical Orthopaedic Course. *Royal Cancer Hospital*, Fulham Road, S.W.: F.R.C.S. Comprehensive Course. *West End Hospital for Nervous Diseases*, Out-patient Department, Welbeck Street, W.: Wed., 5.30 p.m., F.R.C.S. Clinical General Surgery Course. *Brompton Hospital*, S.W.: Tues. and Thurs., 5.30 p.m., M.R.C.P. Course in Chest Diseases.

EDINBURGH POSTGRADUATE LECTURES.—At Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, *Thurs.*, 4.30 p.m. Mr. Norman Dott: The Scope and Organization of Neurological Surgery in Wartime.

DIARY OF SOCIETIES AND LECTURES

PADDINGTON MEDICAL SOCIETY.—At St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, W., *Tues.*, 9 p.m. Dr. H. B. Morgan, M.P., Medical Services in Industry.

VACANCIES

EXAMINING FACTORY SURGEONS.—The following vacant appointments are announced: Minehead (Somerset); Altrincham (Chester). Applications to the Chief Inspector of Factories, Cleland House, Page Street, S.W.1, by September 10.

APPOINTMENTS

EXAMINING FACTORY SURGEONS.—M. N. Clifton, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., for the Tarporley District (Cheshire); J. Agnew, M.B., Ch.B., for the East Kilbride District (Lanarkshire); H. E. Scoones, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., for the Hythe District (Kent).

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL.—The following appointment in the Council's mental health services at the hospital indicated in parentheses is announced. *Temporary First Assistant Medical Officer:* D. A. S. Blair, M.D., D.P.M. (Cane Hill Hospital).

Diary of B.M.A. Central Meetings

SEPTEMBER

5 Thurs. Journal Board, 2.15 p.m.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS

The charge for inserting announcements under this heading is 10s. 6d. This amount should be forwarded with the notice, authenticated with the name and address of the sender, and should reach the Advertisement Manager not later than the first post Tuesday morning to ensure insertion in the current issue.

MARRIAGE

DAVIES—BARBER.—On July 20, 1940, at Singapore, Major L. E. Charles Davies, R.A.M.C., son of Dr. and Mrs. Walter Davies of Llanidloes, to Sybil, eldest daughter of Dr. Hugh Barber and the late Mrs. Barber of Derby.

DEATH

CHISLETT.—At Glasgow on August 24, 1940, Charles Game Angus Chislett, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.F.P. and S.G., eldest son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Charles Chislett, Lanark, dearly beloved husband of Catherine McGregor Leighton, and medical superintendent of Lennox Castle Institution, Stirlingshire.